The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 4 - Number 2 NOVEMBER, 1955

CALLING ALL MINISTERS

Save the week of November 28 to December 2 for the fall Ministers' Convocation and Training School! Don't let anything prevent your coming to Southern Union College, for this is an event too good and too important to miss.

Our leaders for this fall Convocation include Dr. Kendrick Grobel, Professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt School of Religion; Dr. Simon Bennett, former Superintendent of the Indiana Congregational Christian Conference; Dr. Thomas Anderson, pastor of Central Congregational Church, Atlanta; and President Clyde C. Flannery of Southern Union College

Dr. Grobel will conduct classes for the advanced group under the theme "We Would See Jesus". He will also be the Convocation lecturer and his addresses will be entitled "Christ the Liberator", "The Christian's Freedom From Sin", "The Christian's Freedom from the Law", and "The Christian's Freedom from Death".

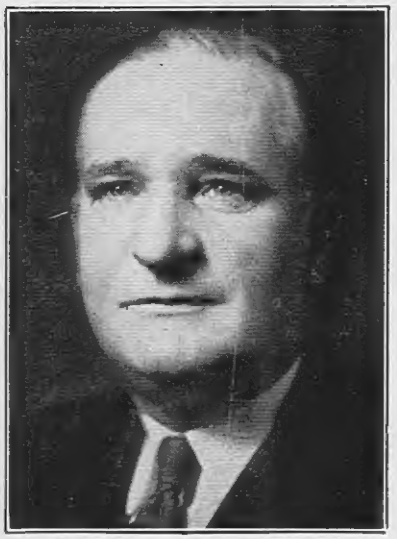
Classes for the undergraduate group will be "Christian Doctrine" under the leadership of President Flannery, and "Evangelism" taught by Dr. Bennett.

The Convocation preacher, Dr. Thomas Anderson, will conduct the devotional periods each evening, on four of the major fields of the Christian Ministry, with the following topics: "So This Is the Wonder That is the Love of God", "The Magnificent Obsessions of the Man of Nazareth", "The Witness of the Cross to Modern Life", and "What the Years Have to Say About the Church".

As an added attraction, the Promotional Media Committee of the Convention (Thomas Shreve, chairman) will conduct a workshop period after dinner each evening.

Of course there will be the usual fun and fellowship which always prevails when "good fellows get together" . . . so don't miss this fall Convocation. You'll be mighty glad you came.

DR. KENDRICK GROBEL
Guest Lecturer



DR. THOMAS ANDERSON
Convocation Preacher

Church Builders' Sunday Set For December 11

At the Annual Meeting of the Church Builders Club, held Oct. 30 at United Church in Phenix City, Ala., plans were developed for Church Builders Sunday. December 11, Following this special day, charter membership in this unique club will be closed.

The report of the Secretary-treasurer, Rev. W. C. Carpenter, indicated that 143 new charter members are needed to reach the first working goal of 1,000. In the near future all churches will receive suggestions for presenting the claims of this remarkable enterprise to the congregations on December 11.

Every church will want to participate and enroll new members so that we may begin building new churches throughout the Convention.

Officers elected for the coming year include the Rev. Joe A. French, president; the Rev. W. C. Carpenter, secretary-treasurer.

Observe Church Builders Sunday in your church—December 11.

Children's Work Secretary

Miss Carolyn E. Goddard of Oakland, Calif., began her work as the new Children's Work Secretary under the Division of Christian Education this fall. She will be responsible for developing all kinds of program suggestions needed by thousands of church school teachers in both Sunday and vacation schools and help build the curriculum for this age group. Part of her duties will be to visit many states conducting conferences, institutes and laboratory schools and to counsel personally with state officers on problems and programs of Christian education for children.

Congregational Christian Foundation

The Congregational Christian Foundation is the successor to the Atlanta Theological Seminary, founded in Atlanta, Ga., in 1901 and later moved to Nashville, Tenn., in 1929 when it became affiliated with the Vanderbilt University School of Religion. This school is a ranking institution in the south, is interdenominational, and affords full privileges to the Congregational Christian Foundation.

The Foundation is launching a program of recruitment of leadership, funds for scholarships, and funds for administrative expenses and essential travel in promoting the Foundation, and needs the loyal support of the Congregational Christian churches of the south.

The constitution of the Foundation requires that a majority of the trustees be members of the Congregational Christian fellowship, and the foundation is closely related to the Congregational Christian churches of the south.

The faculty of the Vanderbilt School of Religion includes outstanding scholars of our own fellowship, men like Dr. Nels F. S. Ferre, Professor of Philosophical Theology, and Dr. Kendrick Grobel, Professor of New Testament. Two outstanding Evangelical and Reformed churchmen are also on the staff—Dr. Roger Shinn, Professor of Theology, and Dr. Daniel B. Thompson, Associate Professor of Church History.

The major purpose of the Foundation is the recruitment and preparation of ministers and religious workers for the churches of our fellowship. A goodly number of our present leaders of the southern region are graduates of the Foundation. To meet the growing needs of the area qualified leadership is imperative.

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Harold Henderson and family. Mr. Henderson is assistant pastor at Brookmeade, and a student at Vanderbilt School of Religion.

SHARING

The Share Our Surplus program, launched a a year ago, has been a great success. You were told about it then, and many of you shared in it. Millions of pounds of food are reaching millions of people who are hungry and undernourished. This help has been tremendously appreciated. There can be no doubt about the value both of the aid thus given, and of the Christian witness such assistance has borne. The whole undertaking has been a remarkable testimony of God's ability to use human agencies to accomplish ends truly in line with H is divine purpose.

The program must be continued. It is being continued. The supply of surplus food has been hardly diminished. Government aid in moving it to the areas of need is available, and in the mysterious workings of Divine Providence and governmental finance, it is costing Uncle Sam little of any more to make this Christian ministry possible than to continue to pile up these surplish ends truly in line with His divine purpose.

We Congregational Christians participate in the SOS program through Church World Service. During the past year, we met our suggested share of the cost. In fact, our response was greater than we dared hope. Such a bargain in well-doing was not overlooked by our people, once they knew about it.

Our own Service Committee projects received generous portions for distribution in the field. Everywhere I went myself last spring-- in France, Germany, Italy, Lebanon and Greece, I saw with joy what SOS was doing, and how much appreciated it was.

So we come to you again. The goal of distribution in 1955 is more than 140,000,000 pounds for needy people in 29 countries. In 1956 it is 240,000,000 pounds. To reach that goal, the estimated cost will be $1,100,000. Will your church have a part in meeting our share of this cost? An offering on Thanksgiving or on Forefather's Sunday, immediately preceding, has again been suggested.—Earle H. Ballou, executive secretary Congregational Christian Service Committee, Inc.

Last year twelve churches in the Southeast Convention participated in the SOS project, contributing a total of $644.55.

Throughout the world many hungry children received a glass of milk every day because you cared, and shared. Refugees from aggression, victims of war, disasters and famines-- many homeless and destitute, all pathetically undernourished-- they found new hope and new faith in the friendship and brotherhood symbolized by your aid to them in their hours of great need. In Viet Nam, in Hongkong, in Japan and Korea older children came to our church-supported feeding centers bearing their younger brothers and sisters on their backs. Extra rations of food were distributed at Christmas in the over-crowded Arab refugee camps in the Near East, and in Greece. The very old and the very young, homeless and

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THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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THANKSGIVING

Psalm 95

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, and He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Thus a thousand years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, and before the devout pioneers harvested their first crops, men sang praises of Thanksgiving. We look upon Thanksgiving Day as a heritage from the Massachusetts Bay colony and the first Thanksgiving dates from them. But the spirit of this occasion goes back to those earlier days when men like us bowed down and gave thanks to their Creator.

Essentially, Thanksgiving Day is a religious holiday. How else can we give thanks unless we recognize a power from whence come the blessings for which we are thankful?

Our Pilgrim fathers gave up comfortable homes in their native lands that they might worship God as they believed. Their first year in America was one of need and suffering, and they were forced to realize their utter dependence on the elemental forces of nature. That year their very existence depended upon a good harvest, and out of their experiences they observed the first Thanksgiving Day. Thanksgiving brought a new conception of man's dependence on God's gift.

It was natural that those who continued to live close to the soil should see God in the harvest, but as our mode of living has changed, we have drifted away from a consciousness of direct dependence upon God. Our population has become centered in towns and cities, our social order has become industrialized, and our daily living has increased in complexity. We are too keenly aware of the improper distribution of material gifts and of the problems of the social order in which there is, on the one hand, abundance--and, on the other, poverty. While here we have surpluses of food and materials, in other lands, people are starving and freezing.

Thanksgiving is a time of more than mere rejoicing for a good harvest. Too often we celebrate it mechanically, with a good dinner, a football game, and perhaps a church service. Each year is a challenge of new opportunities. To Thanksgiving should be related the experiences of the year for which we should be deeply grateful. Real thanksgiving and gratitude are rooted deep in the confidence that God's love is sure and His purposes for men are good . . . if men but follow them.

To be aware of God's gifts to us here in the United States is not enough. We must also be intelligently awake to the way in which man may cooperate with God in making His gifts available to all. God is continually at work in the universe and man is God's helper and coworker. If Thanksgiving is a time to be conscious of God's good gifts, it is also a time to develop a feeling of gratitude that we can have a part in working with God in making His gifts available to all. It is also a time to develop a feeling of gratitude that we can have a small part in working with God in His world.

As the spirit of Thanksgiving pervades our hearts, shall we not, like the Pilgrim Fathers, invite others to share our bounties?—M. G. A.

OCWM PLEDGES

The October report of churches which have sent in their pledge cards with goals for the 1955-56 year listed 52 churches pledging $11,744.

Since that time we have received the following:

Dadeville Elder	$ 72.	*
Houston Liberty Hill	48.	**
Haleyville Union Grove	48.	**
Trinity Caddo Friendship	48.	**
Baker Pyron's Chapel	120.	**
Crestview Dorcas	180.	**
Waycross Williams Chapel	240.	**
Stearns Community	100.	**
Lanett Congregational Christian	1,044.	
Langdale	1,200.	**
Lineville New Harmony	48.	**
Lineville Shady Grove	25.	
Roanoke Forest Home	80.	***
Roanoke Rock Stand	96.	**
Wadley Beulah	60.	***
67 churches	$15,153	
30 churches, 1954-55 goals	6,167	
97 churches	$21,320.	

** indicates church accepted the suggested goal.

* indicates church raised goal above last year.

*** indicates church raised goal above suggested goal.

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

"ON TOUR"

One of the joys of being a Superintendent is the opportunity of attending all the association and conference meetings. It's really an experience; and if you ever have fifteen consecutive days to spare in early October, you'll be richly rewarded if you can go "on tour" with the staff and see what's happening around the Convention. Our Minister of Christian Education, Miss Annie Campbell and the Convention Laymen's Fellowship president, Frank Gordon, came along to share in every meeting this year.

Everywhere we went there was a spirit of cooperation and expectancy. Most of the two-day sessions had as the theme "On to the New Day", and even a casual observer could readily see that our churches are indeed on the march.

First we journeyed to Mt. Grove in North Alabama, which is eagerly awaiting the arrival of a minister who will serve not only Mt. Grove and Garden City but the entire association as Pastor-at-large. The Mt. Lebanon representatives announced that their new sanctuary was nearing completion, and Haleyville Union Grove reported a building program underway. Church after church reported progress and an increase in giving to Our Christian World Mission.

From North Alabama we journeyed down to Seman Community Church and the Central Alabama Association meeting. Again the reports of progress were encouraging and indicated a deepening awareness of the tasks and responsibilities we share together.

Then over to Chipley we drove for the Georgia-South Carolina Conference. Even though the Oak Grove Church was in the midst of an extensive remodeling program, it was a gracious host. Almost every church reported an enlargement in plant, facilities or program during the past year. Among the guest speakers were the Rev. John Crutcher of Phenix City, Ala., and the Rev. Ed. Driscoll, Executive Secretary of the Georgia Council of Churches.

The next ride was a long one to Nashville, Tenn., where our new Brookmeade Church was entertaining its first Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. In spite of the great distance involved, good delegations from most of the churches were on hand. Mrs. Dorothy Riess of Southern Union College, was also there to tell the story of her experiences as a representative of the Congregational Christian Service Committee abroad. The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference has been consistently at the top of the list in its giving to Our Christian World Mission, and its program reflected an intense missionary zeal and concern.

After Nashville came the East Alabama Association meeting at the Rock Springs Church, which has just finished a three-room Christian Education building. Again the spirit of cooperation and genuine Christian fellowship was evidenced in the total program. One of the high moments came when the Rev. James Hughes the dean of East Alabama ministers, entered and was escorted to his seat of honor by the Rev. John Dollar. Between them these two veterans have given over 100 years of active service among the churches of East Alabama.

From Rock Springs it was a comparatively short journey to Blackwoods Church near Headland and the South Alabama-Northwest Florida session. In this area too, churches are making real efforts to meet the religious needs of people in their communities, regardless of denominational background. By next year - we may have two new churches in Northwest Florida.

All in all this year's round of association and conference meetings was most gratifying and rewarding. There is a new determination to suc-

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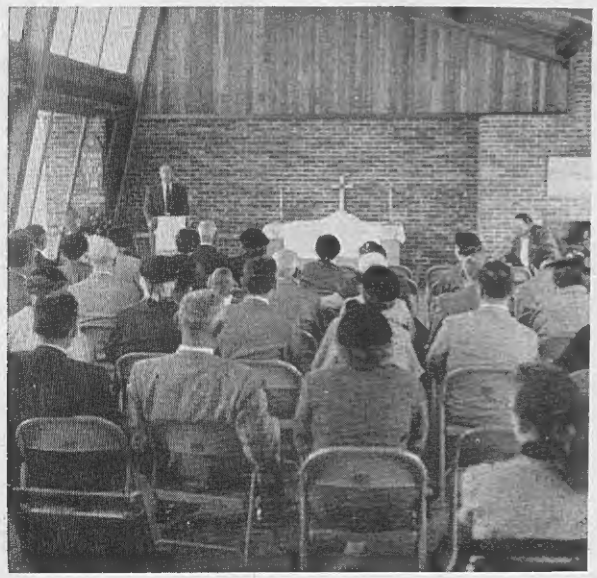

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference at Brookmeade Church

East Ala. Asso. at Rock Springs Church

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

Wadley District Rally

About 60 PFers and their adult leaders were present for the fourth Wadley District Rally held Oct. 23 at Rock Stand Church in Roanoke, Ala.

The program began with a worship period led by the Roanoke Antioch PF, followed with a talk on "Loyalty to Christ" by Dr. A. R. VanCleave. Afterward the workshop sessions on the three commissions met. Leading the workshops were: **Faith,** Dr. Van Cleave, Dean of Southern Union College; **Action,** Millard Fuller, SEC president of PF; **Fellowship**, Albert VanCleave. The nominating committee met under the leadership of the Rev. Charles Bell.

New officers were elected as follows: Bill Green, president; Frank Bell, vice-president; Cynthia Breed, secretary-treasurer; Gloria Blair, reporter; Ronnie Jennings, Faith Commission chairman; Ellis Brown, Fellowship chairman; Johnny VanCleave, Action chairman; and Rev. Charles Bell, adult advisor.

A committee was elected to write the Wadley District constitution; Shirley Blair, Bobbie Hall, and the Rev. David Clark.

Refreshments were served by the host church.

—Gloria Blair, reporter

* * *

The SEC chairman of the PF **Fellowship Commission** is Albert Van Cleave, a senior at Wadley High School. Albert was born in Demorest, Ga., and attended the Demorest grammar school and North Habersham High School. He is president of the Beta Club and for the second year is co-captain of the football team.

Last year Albert was selected to represent Wadley in Boy's State and while there was State Highway Director. He is also secretary of the Union Sunday School in Wadley, and was formerly vice-president of the SEC Pilgrim Fellowship. While serving in that capacity, he and Millard Fuller hitch-hiked to New Haven, Conn., to attend the National Council meeting.

Faith Commission chairman for the SEC PF is Martha Elizabeth Starrett of Atlanta. She was born Nov. 23, 1938 in Atlanta, has attended Samuel Inman grammar school, and is now a senior at Henry Grady High School.

Martha is secretary of the National Honor Society as well as a member of the Band, Orchestra, Beta Club, school paper staff, French Club and Future Teachers of America. She is a member of Central Church where she has charge of the nursery. Martha has been secretary, president (two years) and is now Faith Commission chairman of her local PF group. Her father is Professor of Mathematics at Georgia Tech and she has two younger brothers.

Martha is also PF reporter for the **Southeast News.**

A delightful "backwards party" was given for the PF of Huguley Church, Sept. 25 at the home of Mrs. Johnnie P. Ragland with Miss Gladys Brand assisting her. Everyone wore their clothes backwards and ice cream and cookies were served at the beginning of the party, followed by a scavenger hunt and many other games.

Those attending were: Lessie Mae Brown, Peggy McClure, Peggy Ingram, Frances Hobbs, Sara Jane Turnham, Margie Brown, Lora Connell, Jerry Brown, Philip Raye, Philip Hammock, Byron and Bobby Smoot, Walter Brown, Carey Carmichael and Michael Ragland,

Those attending the PF Rally at Oak Grove Church October 25 were Lessie Mae Brown, Frances Hobbs, Peggy McClure, Philip Hammock, Philip Raye, Bobby and Byron Smoot, Mrs. Buster Raye, Mrs. Johnnie Ragland and Rev. A. C. Nelson.

—Mrs. J. F. Ragland, reporter

* * *

PF Rallies

A PF Rally was held at Evarts First Church, October 29, with 48 delegates registered from five churches - Chattanooga Pilgrim, Soddy First, Robbins, Pleasant Hill and Evarts.

The North Alabama District PF met at Mt. Grove Church, October 29-30 to organize and elect officers.

More news about these meetings in the next issue.

The Vanceville PF has a new barbecue pit on the back of the church grounds and has been enjoying outdoor weiner roasts. Instead of playing pranks on Halloween night, the Young people invited the older groups to join them (in costume) to "pound" the preacher as a surprise.

—Mrs. Rosie Hand

Waycross Williams Chapel PF has chosen Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Griffin as counsellors for the new year. Attendance is good and interest is high. A masquerade party was planned for Oct. 29. The group has purchased a beautiful picture of Christ to use in their worship center for the PF meetings.

—Mrs. C. H. Griffin

The PF of Bonifay New Effort Church in Florida participated in Work Day for Christ on Oct. 22 for the first time. The group is composed of sixteen members and the adult leader, and all agreed that they had received a great blessing in giving a day's work to the advancement of God's Kingdom. The total amount made was $22.60.

—Annie Ruth Hathaway, secretary

Work Day for Christ

PF GROUPS—Please send in your reports on Work Day for Christ this month. We will be asked to report to the national PF office in Boston on how many groups participated and the total amount of money contributed. Last year 13 groups participated, contributing $296.49. We believe many more groups took part this year, but we need your report! Send to Southeast Convention office, NOW!

A Christmas Workshop and Family Night

Has your church had a Christmas Family Night which includes a Christmas Workshop? If not, why not try it this year. It is a Christmas activity in the church for all members of every church family.

Such a program can start about four in the afternoon with a Christmas workshop. At the workshop people come as family groups and participate in the making of various Christmas articles. The teachers, or other capable leaders, are in charge of the various activities and it is best if each activity can be in a separate room, or section of a room. The leader should have samples of the article to be made, sufficient materials so that each family can make the article, and enough assistants for each family to have ample instructions. Young people make interested and capable assistants. Such activities as snowball candles, walnut santas, and egg angels for tree decorations, apple santas and Christmas cards of all types are only a few of the many possibilities, enabling families to learn simple Christmas activities to use at home in preparing for the Christmas season.

At five-thirty supper is served by the Christian Education committee, teachers, or a group of parents. It can be a simple supper, perhaps buffet style. Tables can be decorated with Christmas candles or other articles, made by artistic members of the group to add to the Christmas spirit and also make possible a sharing of ideas for such decorations.

Following supper the group might gather around a simply decorated Christmas tree, or trim a tree with home-made items for the Sunday School, or for shut-ins. Here is a chance to sing Christmas carols, and do include carols from other lands to teach the group. Primaries might learn "Jesus Christ Was Born at Christmas", an African carol. Others can be found with little difficulty. Some of the beloved Christmas stories can be used with the singing, such as "The First Creche", "In Clean Hay", "The Christmas Apple", 'The Jar of Rosemary", "The Legend of St. Nicholas", and "Why the Chimes Rang" are suitable. The evening might be closed with a family worship service done by one of the church families.

A family night, such as this affords everyone a chance to participate, whether it be as workshop leader or assistant, member of the supper committee, song leader, group singer, storyteller, or worship leader. Here the family can best see the Christian meaning of Christmas as it becomes a family celebration—and better, a church family celebration.

Further descriptions of Christmas workshops, pageants, etc., may be found in the Fall Program Manual (30c) Pilgrim Press. **Christmas Carols From Many Lands** (60c) by Coleman and Jorgensen, Schirmer, Inc. **Christmas There** by E. C. Allstrom, Pilgrim Press (50c). Also December issues of all popular magazines have many suggestions.

If you desire lists of books suitable for children and young people for Christmas gifts, write the Convention office.

Shirley Berry

Apple Santas - The body is a bright red apple. Marshmallows painted with vegetable coloring make arms, legs, and hat. White marshmallow makes head, with cloves for the eyes, and cotton for whiskers and a strip of "fur" on the jacket, sleeves and hat. Egg whites are used to make the cotton stick to the apple.

Egg Angels - Make a small hole in each end of a raw egg and blow out the egg. Paint a face on the eggshell. Angel hair makes the hair, and a cupcake paper is used to form the hat and wings by cutting it in half. One-half is used for the hat; the other half makes the wings by fastening them in the middle.

Walnut Santas - Use half a walnut for the face, and crepe paper for the hat, gathering the ends of the paper to form a point and fastening it on with adhesive tape. This makes a tree decoration.

Snow Ball Candles - Melt old candles or paraffin. A rubber ball cut in half makes an excellent mold. Pour the melted wax into the molds and set aside to cool. Wax shrinks as it hardens, so additional wax should be added to make the top even. When cool, remove each half from the mold. Make a groove in one half for the wick (or cord which has been dipped in wax) then spread melted wax over the two halves and stick them together, holding firmly until the wax hardens. To cover the smooth ball, melt wax and as it cools beat with an egg beater until it becomes frothy. Smooth with knife or back of spoon over the ball until it is covered. Be sure the end of the wick is exposed for lighting. If desired, glitter may be sprinkled on the candle before the wax hardens.

Officers and Committee Chairmen

Central Association: Moderator, Mrs. Jettie Logan; Asst. Moderator, Rev. Herbert Long; Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Roy Culpepper (also representative on Board of Directors); Survey & Church And, Mrs. Gary Johnson; Evangelism & Missionary Education, Mrs. Wilma Pemberton; Christian Education & Youth Work, Miss Wilma Durden; Ministry & Churches, Mrs. Jettie Logan; Social Action, Mrs. Wilma Pemberton.

East Alabama Association: Moderator, Rev. Chas. Bell; Vice-moderator. Rev. A. C. Nelson; Honorary Moderator, Rev. John Dollar; Secretary, Paul Beaird (also representative on Board of Directors); and treasurer, Mrs. Velma French.

North Alabama Association: Moderator, Rev. Richard M. Waugh; Scribe & Treasurer, Mrs. Vivian Suggs; Pastor-at-large, Rev. Guy L. Colbert; Ministry & Churches, Rev. Robert Shelton, Stewardship & Evangelism, Rev. Guy L. Colbert; Christian Education & Youth Work, Mrs. Grace Fleming.

South Alabama Association: Not reported.

Georgia-South Carolina Conference: Moderator, Rev. M. B. Porter, Jr.; Asst. Moderator, Rev. A.

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Church News

At Waycross Williams Chapel Church the building fund is growing and we hope to begin our new church in the near future. Each organization of the church is working hard and a large amount of money has been put into the fund.

Jimmy Jernigan, N. A. Long and Charlie Griffin attended the Ministers and Laymen's meeting at Douglas on Oct. 10. Charlie Griffin was elected assistant moderator of the group. Interesting discussions on the duties of ministers and laymen were held.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Smith, Mrs. G. W. Hendrix, Mrs. Whit F. Wynn, and Misses Marie Griffin and Mary Frances Guy attended the Georgia-South Carolina Conference at Chipley, Ga., on Oct. 5-6. They reported a wonderful conference.

Group 2 of the Women's Fellowship is still doing fine work. Organized in June with seven members, Group 2 has now grown to 20 members, and has given $189.69 to the building fund. The money was raised by sponsoring an ice cream supper and tacky party. The group has also bought venetian blinds for the church kitchen. Their newest project is to buy 30 folding chairs for Sunday School rooms.

The Senior S. S. Class sponsored a spaghetti supper to raise funds to beautify their classroom, which is also used as our recreation hall. Lovely draperies were hung as a partition between the classroom and kitchen. Venetian blinds were hung and a piano stool purchased. The Laymen's Fellowship is building benches for this room, and the laymen are planning to paint the classroom and hang a bulletin board in the church.

Group 1 of the Women's Fellowship has started a Prayer Band. Each morning at nine o'clock they have their individual devotional. Those who work have just prayer; those at home have prayer and Bible reading.

—Mrs. C. H. Griffin, reporter

* * *

The newly elected official board of **Columbus United Church** was installed on the morning of Oct. 16 by the pastor, the Rev. W. S. Wood.

Deacons: F. O. Sands, Lenard Hundley, T. P. Wood, Sam Jones, S. Barto Hendrix. Deaconesses: Mrs. W. S. Wood, Mrs. Mildred Scroggins, Mrs. E. D. Hendrix, Mrs. Ruth Ward, Mrs. Myrtice Etheridge. Trustees: Clyde Smith, G. C. Sands, E. D. Hendrix, Noah Thacker, Leon Hughs.

The new church clerk is Mrs. Elmer McClain, treasurer is Elmer McClain, and Sunday School Superintendent is Reid Bentley.

—W. S. Wood, pastor

* * *

The congregations of **Oxford Sardis** and **Buford Duncan's Creek** churches were very happy to have Supt. Butterfield meet with us jointly at Sardis on the evening of Sept. 14, to discuss plans for a minister and also a full-time pastor to serve the two churches jointly, giving half-time to each church. Scott Maddox was elected Moderator.

Since the resignation of our former pastor, the Rev. Scott Morris, the two churches were rather discouraged. Sept. Butterfield gave us much encouragement and a great challenge to go forward with the joint parish. We deeply appreciated the efficient leadership of Rev. Morris and the inspiring messages he gave us, and we wish for him and Mrs. Morris much success and happiness in their new field at Andalusia First Church.

A large group from Sardis attended the North Georgia parish meeting at Liberty Church near Bowman, Sept. 18. It was at this meeting that Sardis and Duncan's Creek withdrew from the North Georgia Parish (four churches) to each go on half-time. The Rev. Annie R. Campbell was in charge of the morning worship, and she spoke on "I Will Make It Anew", a very appropriate topic for the occasion. A bountiful luncheon was served on the church grounds.

On Oct. 9 the Sardis congregation enjoyed a day of fellowship and worship at Duncan's Creek Church, with the Rev. Donald Ross as guest pastor.

The Rev. Hugh Lasseter was guest pastor on Oct. 2, and was called as pastor, to begin serving about December 1. Mr. Lasseter will enter the Emory School of Theology next fall, and continue serving the churches. Miss Eloise Prichett of Atlanta, accompanied Mr. Lasseter. Their marriage has been planned for Nov. 12. We feel we are very fortunate to have this fine young couple to serve our church.

The laymen of Sardis met on the evening of Oct. 12 to organize a Laymen's Fellowship. Plans were made to set aside each Saturday for work on the recreation building now under construction.

A cake-mix sale, sponsored by the Women's Fellowship, was a grand success. Proceeds were given to the building fund. The women are also adding to the fund by picking cotton each Saturday and contributing their earnings.

—Mrs. Albert Strickland, reporter

* * *

The Every Church Canvass training institute at **Vanceville Church,** near Tifton, was well attended and much interest shown. Other churches represented were Ambrose Christian, Baxley Friendship, Douglas First, Enigma, Pearson Union Hill, Tifton First, and Waycross Williams Chapel.

Every three months we have a fellowship supper, followed by a business session of the church and Sunday School, and re-elect officers for the church. The Rev. R. H. Abbott, who has served here since 1948, has accepted the call for another year. He is highly appreciated and loved.

Delegates who attended the state conference at Chipley Oct. 5-6 reported a good meeting and have high hopes that much can be accomplished during the coming year.

The first Women's Fellowship meeting of the new conference year was held the evening of Oct. 12, with good attendance. After the devotional there was an interesting program on Stewardship in which every woman took part. Plans were discussed for the year and the program booklets filled out. We were happy to have two new members join with us.

That same evening the men of the church met and organized a Laymen's Fellowship, after which the two groups joined for refreshments.

—Mrs. Rosie Hand, reporter

An appreciation dinner was held in the old **Circular Congregational Christian Church** of Charleston on the evening of October 19, with Supt. Erston M. Butterfield as guest and speaker.

Four years ago the Board of Home Missions and the Southeast Convention united with the members of our church to invite Archie Burns Bedford to become the pastor with the challenging task of trying to put this old and historic church on its feet. Leaving a happy ministry of 26½ years in Syracuse, N. Y., the Rev. and Mrs. Bedford accepted the challenge for, as they said, they felt this old church deserved to live and the Congregational Christian viewpoint was needed in the South.

During these four years the Board of Home Missions and the Southeast Convention have put about $7,000 into our church. As for the value of this investment, we believe the records speak for themselves. On Oct. 1, 1951 we had 58 active members and today we have 201. There were 40 enrolled in our Church School and today we have an enrollment of 130 and an average attendance of over 90. We were then raising for all purposes through pledges about $2,000; we are now raising $7,500 for the local work and $900 for missions and benevolences. We have raised and spent, during these four years, about $7,500 on the repair of our building, for necessary improvements and for a needed Baldwin organ. The church, which many thought then was only the keeper of a museum and church yard, is now known as one of the very active churches of the city.

William H. Sharpe, who was president of the church in 1951, expressed the appreciation of the church for the help given by the Home Board and the Southeast Convention over these years, and stated that all the members feel that the church will now move steadily forward through the sacrificial support of her members and friends.

We hope that as many delegates as possible from the Southeast Convention churches will be with us for the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention this coming spring in our church (April 23-24-25) for we want you to help us celebrate our 275th Anniversary.

—Miss Agnes Kessler, church clerk

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Atlanta Central Church began the fall with an assistant to the pastor, the Rev. Thomas Anderson. James Sherer Barrett, who is preparing for the ministry at Candler School of Theology, started his work as assistant in September, with responsibilities relating to youth groups and church school. His wife, Margaret Mason Barrett, will share in his work.

Miss Carolyn Goddard, of the Boston office of the Division of Christian Education, conducted a week-end workshop Oct. 21-23 with the church school staff, including a session with parents. The staff consists of the following: Co-superintendents, Mrs. Richard Churchill and Mrs. Edw. L. Askren, Jr.; with Mrs. Thos. M. Bender, Miss Martha Starrett, Mrs. John Daly, Mrs. Robt. Weems, Mrs. Chandler H. Holton, Mrs. Herbert W. Burton, Mrs. Sam Thomason, Mrs. Thos. K. Lewis, Mrs. Virgil E. Simpson, Mrs. E. M. Butterfield, Mrs. M. R. Carstens, Mrs. Richard C. Low, Mrs. Clifford J. Moe, Mrs. J. H. Taylor, Mrs. Stanley M. Blackmer, Mrs. Maxine Calhoun, Mrs. J. S. Garrison, Mrs. A. L. Haskin, James S. Barrett, W. D. Danielson, and Dr. Harold L. Johnson. Pianist is Chandler H. Holton, and treasurer, Dr. M. R. Carstens.

Dr. and Mrs. Edw. L. Askren entertained the Choir with a dinner on Sept. 7 at their home on Timm Valley Rd. Music is under the direction of Mrs. Alastair M. Black, and the choir members are Nan Burnett, Rachel Morgan, Marian Washburn, Dove Ferren, Janice Evans, Ralph Ferren, Richard Drake, Shirley Jackson, Frederika Rapp, Brennie Swinney, Judy Drake, Dottie McCarthy, Walter Jackson, William Michelmore and Grady Starnes.

The Fortnightly Club, consisting of young men and women in college or business, had Frank White as guest speaker on Sept. 11, when he gave a fascinating account of his recent trip as Ambassador of Good Will from America to the new nation of Israel. On Sept. 26 the group went in a body to the Bethel Methodist Church, which has become famous for its annual presentation of the pageant "Heavenbound". A pancake and sausage supper was held on Oct. 29, to raise money for the club project - to provide colonial type lanterns for all the outside lights of the church building.

Central's Women's Guild is making plans for a busy and effective year, under the leadership of Mrs. Ruth Simmons. A Smorgasbord will replace the annual bazaar, and is scheduled for Nov. 11. The third Wednesday of each month has been designated as Sewing Day, with articles being made for Friendly Service and the Needlework Guild.

Circle No. 1 is making clever stuffed animals, using discarded nylon stockings as stuffing, for the Delmo Project. A needy family has been adopted for regular help. On Sept. 14 a farewell handkerchief shower was held for Isabelle Wilson, who is moving to California, and who was chairman of the circle in 1954. Mrs. Ralph Ferren is chairman for 1955.

Circle No. 2 has sent a check and package to the Japanese student at Shorter College, Sumako Yokamura. Dr. Emily Dexter began a series of talks on psychology in October.

Circle No. 3 has finished their quota of sewing for the Needlework Guild, but is continuing to make baby shoes of white kid and pink or blue felt. A rummage sale has been planned for Nov. 16.

From The Messenger, monthly news bulletin

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Homecoming Day at **Columbus First Church** was held Oct. 16, with a large attendance at the morning service and the dinner served in the church dining room.

Since Supt. Butterfield could not be present, he prepared a tape recording of his greetings to the congregation. This was followed by a sermon by Frank Gordon, president of the Convention Laymen's Fellowship.

The early afternoon was spent in fellowship,

MR. and MRS. C. L. HOWARD

hymn singing, talks by the Rev. John Crutcher of Phenix City and members of the congregation. The movie, "The Secret of the Gift" closed the program for the day at four o'clock p. m.

On the evening of Oct. 26 the Evarts First Church held a fellowship supper, elected new officers for the coming year and approved the budget for Time, Talent and Finance. Nov. 13 was set as the Every Church Canvass. "The Secret of the Gift" film was shown on Nov. 6.

New church officers are: Mrs. Audrey Van Pelt, clerk; Walter Asher, Jr., treasurer; Miss Doris Turner, benevolence treasurer; Mrs. Dennis Ball, financial secretary; Miss Betty Rhea Pace, corresponding secretary; N. B. Smith, historian; Mrs. T. C. Linkous, organist; W. A. Buckner, choir director; Miss Ethel Wyatt, Church school supt.; W. A. Buckner, asst. supt.; Mrs. Wilma Asher, church school secretary; Miss Wanda Royland, asst. C. S. secretary; PF advisors, Mrs. John Cox, Mrs. Charles Scoville; trustee, E. L. Vaughn; deason, J. H. Turner; deasoness, Mrs. Dorothy Jody.

—Collie Seymour, pastor

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The **Evarts First Church** held a family supper on Oct. 26 honoring Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Howard, in recognition for their services to the church.

Mrs. Howard, affectionately known as "Aunt Celia" in Evarts, is beloved by all people in the community. We think she may have a record in teaching Sunday School as she has been teaching for 69 years, starting when she was sixteen. The grandchildren of some of her first pupils have been in her primary classes in recent years. On Oct. 2 "Aunt Celia" started a well-earned leave of absence from regular teaching. Such dedication to the teaching ministry of the church would be hard to equal, and the Evarts church appreciates her years of devotion and loyal service to its religious education.

Also deserving a vote of appreciation and thanks is Mr. Howard, for his service to the church. When some job of painting, repairing, installing equipment-- or anything else-- needs to be done, just let Mr. Howard hear about it and along he come with his tools and the job is done. Whenever anyone mentions his helpful work, he replies, "After my home, the church has first claim on my time and talents. Anything I can do to help I am glad to do, and no charge." He has saved the church a large amount in repairs and maintenance over the years.

The life and work of people like Mr. and Mrs. Howard help the church to fulfill its mission in the local community and in the world.

Collie Seymour, pastor

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The Building Committee of **Birmingham Pilgrim Church** met recently with Mr. Atkinson, head of the Bureau of Church Building of the National Council of Churches, and found his literature and advice most helpful. The Building Committee is being enlarged as it considers the specific details of a new building.

Sept. 25 was observed as Christian Education Sunday, with special recognition of the day in both the church school and morning service. The program included a motion song by the nursery-kindergarten group, Bible verses given by the primary class, and a presentation of the story of the Good Samaritan by the juniors. The junior high class conducted a panel discussion on the subject, "What the church school means to us as members of the home, the school, and the community, and what it means to us in our personalities." The senior high class assisted the minister in the morning service. Members of the class taking part were Jimmy Anderegg, Bonnie Fletcher, James Gerald, Marcia Herman and Edith Malone. The sermon topic of the morning was "The Three R's of Religion".

The church school staff for the coming year are: Richard Warren, Supt.; Mrs. Ruth Pearson, Asst. Supt.; Mrs. Charles E. Feazel, Miss Nell Bennett, Mrs. George H. Gray, Mrs. David F. Elmore, Mrs. Harris H. Turner, Mrs. Winston Harris, Mrs. Thomas J. Fletcher, Mrs. Fitz Bussinger, Mrs. E. P. Herman, Mrs. Fred F. Cameron, Dr. Locke White, Jr., and Rev. Allen K. Wadleigh.

Representatives attending the Laymen's Training Session at Mt. Grove Church were Charles Feazel, Pressley Ingram, James Lacey and Rev. Wadleigh.

Those representing the church at the North Alabama Association meeting were Fred Cameron, Dick Warren, Pressley Ingram and Rev. Wadleigh.

The Woman's Guild is off to a good start for the year. A Rummage Sale was held on Oct. 4, and two luncheons have been planned for later this fall. In connection with World Community Day on Nov. 4, the Guild is collecting good used clothing and bedding to be sent in "Parcels for Peace" to various parts of the world where the need is great.

From Pilgrim's Progress,
monthly newsletter

* * *

Sept. 10 was a day of homecoming for the Rev. Paul Pardy, Mrs. Pardy and Miss Nancy Freeman, who had been away for a vacation. The Langdale Church family was certainly happy to welcome

them home again. Although they only came to us in May, they have already won a warm place in our hearts and are proving to be a wonderful asset to our church and community.

Nineteen men responded to the pastor's call on Sept. 18 to organize a "Fishermen's Club". Membership in the club is based on three main ideas: 1) willingness to testify for Christ to your neighbors, 2) a pledge to call frequently on your neighbors who are not church members, and 3) to keep in touch with the pastor and report progress. Only those who volunteer willingly are asked to join.

The choir was delightfully entertained Aug. 26 at the home of Mrs. Verna Williams. The 50 members enjoyed fun and fellowship with home-made ice cream and cake. Jabus Williamson is the newly elected president and acting director of the choir. Robert Sims is vice-president and Joyce Gray is secretary-treasurer.

The Women's Fellowship of the East Alabama Association met at Langdale Church, Sept. 25. The meeting was well attended and the group received inspiration from a stewardship sermon by Dr. Paul Pardy, a devotional on cooperation by Mrs. J. M. Smith, a sermon, "Out of the Heart of the Gospel Comes Our Mission, Method and Motive" by Supt. Butterfield, and a closing message by Mrs. Clyde Flannery. The choir of Langdale Church rendered a special number.

The Women's Fellowship is off to a good start for the new year. Officers were recently installed and a joint meeting of all the church women was held at the church on Sept. 12. Their big project for the year is the purchase of a new carpet for the church and a major purpose is to work more closely together as church women.

Charlie Will Johnson, James Dollar, Odell Yancey and Dr. Pardy attended the Every Church Canvass training session at Chipley Oak Grove on Sept. 12.

New officers for the Laymen's Fellowship are John D. Taylor, president; James Dollar, vice-president; and Howard Mason, secretary-treasurer. Their big project for the year was the purchase of a large cafe-style gas range for the church kitchen.

New members who have recently joined the church are: Mrs. Dotson Kilgore, Winfred Kilgore, Mrs. Helen Betts, Jimmy Harold and Larry Betts, Ethelda Jones, Margaret Williams, Nathan, Peggy and Jerry O'neal, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Pardy, and Miss Nancy Freeman.

Eleven young people attended a youth meeting at Chipley Oak Grove on Sept. 25, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Wilder and Dr. Pardy.

Sunday evening, Sept. 11, was an enjoyable occasion for the Sunday School members, especially the children. The group enjoyed a hamburger supper and were inspired by an outdoor vesper service.

—Mrs. Willie Sides, reporter

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The year-end annual meeting of the **Alexander City Hunt Church** was held recently, and a budget for the coming year was adopted, church officers elected and the OCWM goal was accepted.

Incoming officers were installed on Oct. 2, as follows: Deacon, E. E. Ingram; Trustees, John Caldwell and Herbert Taylor; Clerk, Mrs. B. H. Corley; Treasurer, E. C. Alford; S. S. Supt., N. B. Riley; Asst. S. S. Supt., T. W. Burnett; Pianist, Miss Shirley Blair; Asst. pianist, Miss Gloria Corley; church reporter, Mrs. John Caldwell; ushers, Jimmy Nickolson, Hugh Jones, Johnnie Elkins, Roger Whitley.

The following delegates represented the church at the East Alabama Association meeting: Rev. and Mrs. Lynwood Hubbard, James Cumbee and Mrs. N. B. Riley.

Hugh Jones and Mrs. Fred Jones were accepted into full membership of the church, bringing our total to 22 new members for this year.

—Mrs. John Caldwell, reporter

* * *

The missionary auxiliary of **Lanett Church** served a supper on the night of Sept. 24 honoring Rev. and Mrs. Joe A. French and the building committee, Curtis Sims, chairman, with Render Fuller, Pate Dunn and A. D. Harry. Norman Haynes rendered two vocal solos. Speakers were Marvin Hodge, for the Board of Deacons, S. W. Seymour for the Sunday School, Reid Kent for the city, Frank Williams for the West Point Manufacturing Co., and Terrell Dobson who read a unique letter of appreciation. Vester Dobson, Sr., was the very capable master of ceremonies.

The missionary conference at Langdale on Sept. 25 was attended by 17 women of our auxiliary. On the same date we had 17 PF delegates attending the Rally at Chipley, Oak Grove. The young people had charge of the devotional for the rally. V. R. Dobson, Jr., was elected president of the Valley District PF.

On this same Sunday we observed our Day of Decision and voted on our budget for the coming year.

On Oct. 2, following our morning worship, a service of installation and dedication was held for Sunday School and church officers.

The observance of the 75th anniversary of the West Point Mfg. Co., our church cooperated by having T. Scott Avery, vice-president, speak on Oct. 9. His message was most challenging, on the theme of "Staying Power and Starting Power".

Delegates attending the East Alabama Association meeting at Rock Springs, Oct. 12-13 were: Mrs. Render Fuller, Mrs. Lena Stephens, Mrs. Charlie Miller, Mrs. Tom Crenshaw, Mrs. A. D. Harry, S. W. Seymour and Rev. and Mrs. Joe A. French.

Our annual business meeting was held in the fellowship hall, Oct. 16, following a bountiful luncheon. The Rev. French presented our year's work by pictures, figures, and facts-- a practice which has proven most popular with our church membership. S. W. Seymour, our S. S. Supt., presented the children in the pre-school department with "starter pins", this being for a three-month period.

Recent additions to church furnishings are a new desk and chair for the secretary of the Sunday School, and a desk lamp for the pastor's study. These were gifts from Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Seymour.

—Mrs. Cooper Cannon, reporter

POSTMASTER
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Entered as Second Class

PLEASE OPEN AND DISTRIBUTE

Rev. James H. Hughes and Rev. John D. Dollar, who between them have given more than 100 years of service in East Alabama churches.

The **United Church** of Phenix City has begun a good church year by receiving seven new members and a christening service was held for Mark Stephen Starling.

Oct. 16 was observed as Stewardship Sunday, and 34 pledges were made raising $4,772 of the proposed $8,716 budget. An Every Member Canvass team will contact the other 90 members. The Sunday service was climaxed with the showing of the film, "The Secret of the Gift".

Delegates to the East Alabama Association reported to the church on the meeting. These were Rev. and Mrs. John Crutcher, Mrs. Harveta Barr, Mrs. Elsie Edwards and Mrs. O. C. Hilyer. Mrs. Harveta Barr was appointed to serve on the Committee of Religious Education and Youth Work.

The Women's Christian Service Club recently had a social which netted $100, to be applied on new furnishings for the educational building.

The Wednesday night "Hour of Power" has proven very successful. We have entered into a verse by verse study of the Book of Genesis, which will cover the next eighteen months of study.

Oct. 23 was observed as Laymen's Sunday, with laymen in complete charge of the service.

The Church Builders' Club met with us on Oct. 30, with our pastor, the Rev. John Crutcher, as guest speaker.

Thursday, Nov. 10, has been planned as our first annual church day of prayer. The Sanctuary will be open to the public from nine a. m. to nine p. m. with the minister in the pulpit every hour on the hour to share with the people in prayer, meditation, and Bible reading.

Harry W. Barr, reporter

At the annual business meeting on the night of Sept. 17, the following officers were elected to serve Huguley Church: Trustees, Boyce Fant, James Raye, Billy Ferrell, Ralph Smoot; Deacons, Charles McClure, Avery Brown, Noel Allen, J. P. Williamson; church clerk, Mrs. Thelma Harper; choir leader, Boyce Fant; asst. Choir leader, Avary Brown; pianist, Mrs. J. P. Williamson, Asst. pianist, Mrs. Ralph Smoot; S. S. Supt., J. P. Williamson; Asst. S. S. Supt., Charles McClure; flower chairman, Mrs. E. B. Dolittle.

—Mrs. Johnnie P. Ragland

Congregational Christian Foundation

(From page 3)

At the present time we have enrolled in the School of Religion four students: Frederick Ferre, Guy L. Colbert, Harold Henderson and Gerald Edw. Bender. All four men deserve our help through the scholarship fund, which has been set at $350.00 per scholarship.

Officers of the Foundation are the Rev. Arnold Slater, Acting President; Dr. Warren McA. Deacon, Secretary; Jules Durham, Treasurer; and Dr. John K. Benton, Dean of the Vanderbilt School of Religion.

It is hoped that churches of the Southeast Convention will put the Foundation in their budgets for a yearly contribution.

SHARING

(From page 3)

destitute, have especial claim upon our compassion.

If your church shares in the SOS program, send your checks to the Southeast Convention office, 673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E., and mark them for the Share Our Surplus program."

The Superintendent's Page

(From page 5)

ceed in our Program of Progress, to work together; to march on to the New Day. May God richly bless our every worthy effort as we continue to advance.

—Erston M. Butterfield

Officers and Committee Chairmen

(From page 7)

Goff Bedford; Scribe & Treasurer: Rev. W. C. Carpenter. Committee chairmen not reported.

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference: Rev. Collie Seymour, Moderator; Dr. Paul Reynolds, representative to Board of Directors. Committee chairmen not reported.